Privatisation of SEBs

1876. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some State Governments propose to privatize their Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, whether Central Government's clearance is required in this respect; and

(c) how many State Governments have so far approached the Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Privatization of distribution of electricity by the States is one of the options envisaged for bringing about a turnaround in distribution.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

Orissa dues to NTPC

1877. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa State owes huge amount to NTPC in the power sector;

(b) whether the State Government has made a request to the Centre to solve the crisis; and

(c) if so, the help rendered by the Centre to tide over the existing crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The outstanding dues as on 31.7.2003 owed by GRIDCO to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) amount to Rs.2263.54 crores, out of which an amount of Rs. 313.81 crores is covered by GRIDCO bonds and another Rs.400 crores by way of bonds issued by the distribution companies of Orissa to GRIDCO. GRIDCO is not servicing these bonds and the total outstanding interest on these bonds amount to Rs.294.92 crores. Thus the details of the amount payable by GRIDCO to NTPC as on 31.07.2003 is as under:

Principal energy dues	:	Rs. 1328.01 Crores
Surcharge	:	Rs. 221.72 Crores
Outstanding Bond amount	:	Rs. 713.81 Crores
Interest outstandig on above bonds	:	Rs. 294.92 Crores
TOTAL	:	**Rs. 2558.46 Crores**

Out of the above outstanding dues, an amount of Rs. 1211.76 Crores would be securitized under the scheme for one-time settlement and accordingly, Rs. 1102.88 crore of 8.5% tax-free bonds would be issued by Government of Orissa after waiving surcharge of Rs. 108.88 crores.

(b) and (c) Apart from the help of securitization which is going to cover an amount of Rs. 1211.76 crore of the outstanding dues, on request from GRIDCO to the Government of India, Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has conveyed its in-principle sanction for providing transitional short-term loan of Rs. 1200 crores. However, GRIDCO has not fulfilled the terms and conditions of the loan sanctioned by PFC. Therefore, only an amount of Rs. 200 crore has been disbursed by PFC to GRIDCO as ad-hoc tranche and remaining amount is yet to be drawn by GRIDCO. In view of the above situation default of GRIDCO to NTPC is continuing.

Setting up of Power Grid Station in district of Bihar

1878. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar Government has not yet signed the Memorandum of Understanding nor allotted land for setting up of a power grid station in Saran District.

(b) if so, how the foundation stone was laid in June, 2003; and

(c) by when the project will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Memorandum of Agreement, revised on the basis of discussion held with Government of Bihar/Bihar State Electricity Board has been set to the Government of Bihar/Bihar State Electricity Board for signing of the same by the competent authority and is likely to be finalized very soon. The works will begin immediately after signing of the agreement and receipt of 1st tranche of grant. The same are expected to be completed progressively